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WASHINGTON
ALIENS

An application has been filed in court here demanding that the Air Force release "the remains of the extraterrestrial being or beings" it is alleged to be holding in secret custody, Pentagon officials said today.

They said the petition asking for a writ of habeas corpus had been served on Air Force Secretary Vernon Orr, who has 60 days to respond.

It was filed in federal district court by Larry Bryant of Alexandria, Va., representing a group called Citizens Against UFO (Unidentified Flying Object) Secrecy (CAUSE).

Bryant, who also named the Pentagon, the Army, the attorney general, the CIA and other national security agencies and officials, implied that some of the aliens whose release he seeks may still be alive, saying they were being subjected to "unwarranted deprivation of their right to travel."

He did not say where the extraterrestrials or their remains were being held, but Wright-Patterson Air Force Base at Dayton, Ohio, is frequently cited by UFO groups as the prime suspect.

Asked to comment on the petition, an official said the Air Force had stopped investigating UFO matters in 1969, when it issued its comprehensive "Blue Book" on the subject.